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# MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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A summary of significant events of  
interest to USDA management

Issue #5  
FEB 14 1975 February 21, 1975

## MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

### MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ACTIONS.....

Council Initiates Project Overhead.....The first two overhead studies will focus on training, under the leadership of Verne Bathurst, SCS, and publications, printing and copying, under the leadership of Jack Deinema, FS. The study groups will include agency personnel as well as members from the Office of Audit and OMF. Each study group will review USDA activities in its assigned area and seek to develop action recommendations to increase effectiveness and reduce costs wherever possible. Preliminary review will be completed and presented to the Council by March 7. At that time the Council will decide whether to continue these two studies. (Contact: Steve Dewhurst, OMF, ext. 73045.)

Council to Receive Daily Digest of Federal Register.....For a 3-week trial period the digest will be distributed to Council members. It is prepared by OMF and highlights items of interest to USDA. The final issue in the trial period will be accompanied by a questionnaire designed to measure the usefulness of the digest. (Contact: Ed Boyer, OMF, ext. 73671.)

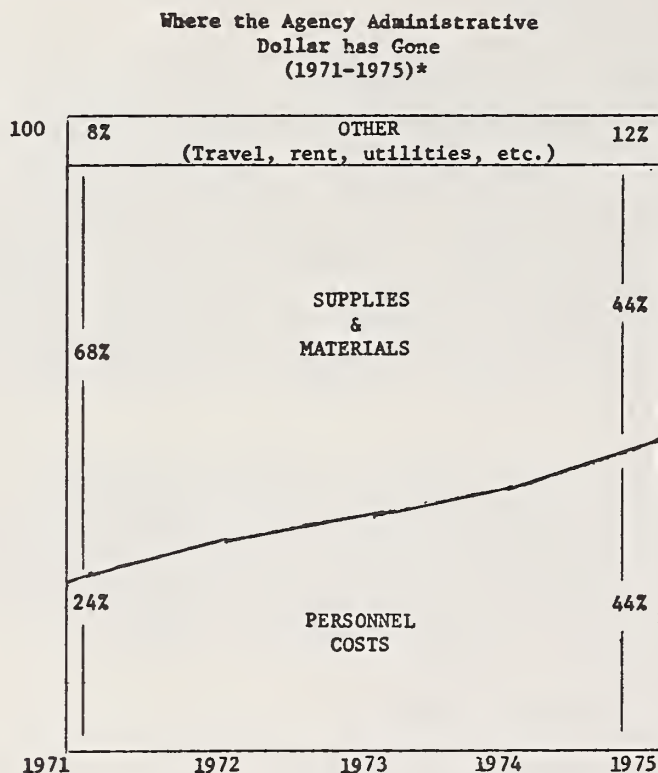
### Due Dates and Upcoming Events.....

- ... Agency comments on NFC systems design and development are due February 28, 1975.
- ... Comments on upward mobility were due in OP on February 14. 20 agencies are overdue.
- ... Input for the OADS conference is due by the end of February. Meeting the deadline will ensure Council members have enough time prior to the conference to review the position papers.
- ... OMB has asked for an interim A-11 ADP report by May 1. OADS will issue instructions by February 28 with responses due by late April. (Contact: Joe Erb, OADS, ext. 72803.)

HOUSE BUDGET HEARINGS TO BEGIN MARCH 10.....They will continue through March 21, resume April 7 after the Easter recess, and terminate about April 18. Agencies will soon receive a tentative schedule for these hearings. The Senate has not yet scheduled hearings. (Contact: Bill Gardner, OMF, ext. 75901.)

RESCISSION/DEFERRAL BILL REPORTED IN HOUSE.....H.R. 3260 was reported Feb. 20 by the Appropriations Committee. It disallowed 3 USDA rescission proposals: Water Bank, reforestation and timber stand improvement, and cooperation in forest fire control. (Contact: Chuck Jewell, OMF, ext. 76176.)

AGENCIES' OVERHEAD INCREASES TO \$86 MILLION.....This estimate for FY 1975 is an increase of more than 30% from FY 1972. This chart shows where the agency dollar has gone over the past 5 years:



\* Excludes direct program costs such as contracts, grants, loans, etc.

Clearly, more is going to personnel costs with other expenses having to absorb the cutbacks. With costs of almost everything on the rise, there is incentive for agencies to minimize unnecessary overhead. (Contact: Bill Holcombe, OMF, ext. 72370.)

### PERSONNEL

PRESIDENT SIGNS NEW LABOR-MANAGEMENT E.O.....Executive Order 11838, signed February 6, changes the labor relations program based on recommendations of the Federal Labor Relations Council. Principal changes are:

- Provision of a procedure, to be administered by the Asst. Secretary of Labor, for consolidation of smaller units of recognitions into larger units thereby broadening the scope of bargaining.

- Provision which allows unions to negotiate on the agencies' regulations. The union must request a waiver on regulations and if agencies refuse the waiver, they must show why by citing a "compelling need" for not having the regulation waived. If the union does not accept the rationale of the agency, they can appeal to the Federal Labor Relations Council. The Council will be setting criteria to be used for "compelling need."
- Broadening the scope of the grievance procedure to allow grievances over all matters including agency regulations. Grievance procedure may not cover matters subject to statutory appeals procedure, i.e., EEO appeals, adverse action appeals for suspensions of over 30 days, classification appeals.
- The Asst. Secretary of Labor will perform the independent investigation of unfair labor practice complaints. Complainant party still prosecutes the case. Formally, there was no investigation by the Asst. Secretary.
- Agency will be required to approve or disapprove negotiated agreements within 45 days of execution by the local parties. Failure to act will be treated as agency waiver of its regulations.
- A minor change in definition of supervisors will bring more employees into the unit of recognition and remove requirement that guards be represented only by separate labor organization.

E.O. 11838 becomes effective May 7, 1975. (Contact: A. M. Seeger, OP, ext. 76955.)

#### ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

STAFF OFFICES TO COORDINATE REVIEW OF PROPOSED CONSOLIDATIONS AND RELOCATIONS.....OMF, OA, and OO are working out a procedure which will be issued in 30 days. This will involve early notice by the agencies to the staff offices of any major actions and coordination between these offices in reviewing proposed actions. (Contact: Bill Roth, OO, ext. 74071.)

DEPARTMENT TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE STANDARDS.... OO is analyzing agencies' comments on draft GSA regulations covering "Uniform Administrative Standards for Agreements with Public and Private Institutions of Higher Education, Public and Private Hospitals, and Other Public and Private Non-profit Organizations." GSA has officially published a notice of proposed rulemaking on these regulations and the proposal, as published, will be circulated. Additional agency comments must be received in OO by March 7. A meeting is set for February 25, 2:00 p.m., room 3109-S, to present a summary of the comments received so far. (Contact: Don Manns, OO, ext. 77527.)



## CENTRAL SERVICES

COMPUTER CENTERS FY 1976 BILLING STRUCTURE BEING REVIEWED.....A task force made up of members from ADS and the REP Committee is expected to submit a report and recommendations by March 31. (contact: Pat Martin, OADS, ext. 76871.)

AGENCIES TO BE ASKED FOR CONVERSION ESTIMATES.....ADS will ask the agencies for their dollar and time estimates to convert their automated systems to new computer equipment being acquired. The new large scale, multiple central processing unit computers will replace the existing computers at Ft. Collins, Kansas City, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C. (Contact: Joe Erb, OADS, ext. 72803.)

## OTHER

### SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES APPOINTED.....

#### Agriculture

##### Democrats

Mr. McGee, Wyo., Chairman  
Mr. Stennis, Miss.  
Mr. Proxmire, Wis.  
Mr. Byrd, W. Va.  
Mr. Inouye, Ha.  
Mr. Bayh, Ind.  
Mr. Eagleton, Mo.  
Mr. Chiles, Fla.

##### Republicans

Mr. Fong, Ha.  
Mr. Hruska, Neb.  
Mr. Young, N.D.  
Mr. Hatfield, Ore.  
Mr. Bellmon, Okla.

#### Interior

##### Democrats

Mr. Byrd, W. Va., Chairman  
Mr. McClellan, Ark.  
Mr. McGee, Wyo.  
Mr. Montoya, N.M.  
Mr. Inouye, Ha.  
Mr. Chiles, Fla.  
Mr. Mansfield, Mon.  
Mr. Hollings, S.C.

##### Republicans

Mr. Stevens, Alaska  
Mr. Young, N.D.  
Mr. Hruska, Neb.  
Mr. Hatfield, Ore.  
Mr. Bellmon, Okla.

(Contact: Chuck Jewell, OMF, ext. 76176.)

JAMES T. LYNN BECOMES DIRECTOR OF OMB.....He was confirmed by the Senate on February 5 and sworn in as Director on February 10. (Contact: Steve Dewhurst, OMF, ext. 73045.)